

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

S-E-C-R-E-T -

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Activities at Naumburg, Gera and the Zeitz Forest

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 28 March 1955

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED
Information

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1. On 8 March 1955, the Bismarck Kaserne (8385) in Naumburg was only lightly occupied. The barracks gates were locked and guarded by sentries. Only a few windows were lit at dusk. The AAA units previously stationed in the installation had apparently left.¹

25X1

2. Between 1 and 10 February, the units from the Panzer Kaserne (8142) in Tinz near Gera left for exercises from which they returned about 20 February. After the return of the troops, the installation was occupied until 7 March by approximately 600 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with tank insignia. Officers of the tank regiment stationed in Zeitz were repeatedly seen in the installation. A Soviet senior lieutenant stated that a school stationed in the installation was expected to receive new tanks.
On 1 and 7 March, up to 4 JS-1 tanks practiced driving along the Brahme River and river crossing on a make-shift bridge. On 4 March, 2 SSY-type flatcars carrying JS tanks were seen at the Gera railroad station.²

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3. On 16 or 22 February, a unit which returned to the Reuss Kaserne (8141) in Gera, presumably from the Zeitz Forest, included 8 x 152-mm gun howitzers, 25 to 35 YA-12 prime movers and approximately 40 trucks with 800 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Gun howitzers were observed in the installation for the first time.
On 4 and 7 March, intensive training was observed at the training area north of Untermaus. Reports of AT guns were heard. Motor vehicles entered and left the installation.³

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4. In February and early March, the Zeitz Forest training grounds was occupied by several thousand soldiers who were quartered in tents and huts located along the edge of the woods between Breitenbach and Lonzig. A total of approximately 50 T-34/85 tanks, 12 x 85-mm and 100-mm AT guns and 6 to 8 M-13 rocket launchers were seen. During the period under review, reports of tank and AT guns were continually heard from the training area.
On 2 March, a unit of approximately 600 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with 18 to 20 camouflaged guns, many camouflaged motor vehicles and 3 field kitchens was observed in a wood patch near Wacholderbaum on either side of the road to Giebelroth.³

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1. Comment. According to reports on transportation, the 498th AAA Regt of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps transferred in 3 shipments to Wustrow for firing practices 25X1
2. Comment. The U/i Tank Tng Unit of the Eighth Gds Army is quite definitely believed to have engaged in exercises in the Zeitz Forest prior to 20 February. Soldiers of the 20th Gds Mecz Div from Zeitz probably participated in courses of the tank training unit. The 2 JS tanks observed at the Gera railroad station on 4 March belonged to the 20th Gds Mecz Div, which possibly detached the tanks to Gera for training purposes. 25X1
3. Comment. Some 16 x 152-mm gun howitzers had already been observed with the 308th Arty Brig of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps in early and mid-February. Observations in the Zeitz Forest on 2 March tend to indicate that units of the brigade conducted routine exercises in this area. Other observations confirmed exercises and winter bivouacs of the 20th Gds Mecz Div. 25X1

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